

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6856

UNCLAS TAIPEI 5697

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN, BFOL

SUBJECT: DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS
AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENT DISTRICT OFFICES

REF: STATE 202051

1. IN GENERAL, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THE ESTABLISHED POLICY OF HAVING FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS COMMUNICATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FIELD OFFICES THROUGH THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND COMMERCE IN WASHINGTON SHOULD BE MAINTAINED. THIS PROCEDURE HELPS ASSURE UNIFORM TREATMENT OF REQUESTS FOR SERVICES, AND, IN THOSE CASES WHERE THE DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE THE SERVICES, RELIEVES THE POSTS OF UNNECESSARY WORKLOAD.

2. THERE ARE CASES, HOWEVER, IN WHICH DIRECT COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE POSTS AND THE FIELD OFFICES WOULD BE WARRANTED, E.G., A SUDDEN CHANGE OF PLANS OF A BUSINESS VISITOR FOR WHOM APPOINTMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE, OR CHANGES IN ARRANGEMENTS OF A TRADE CENTER SHOW OR U.S. EXHIBITION PARTICIPANT WHEN TIME DOES NOT PERMIT THE DELAY OF TRANSMISSION THROUGH WASHINGTON. THESE COMMUNICATIONS, IN OUR VIEW, SHOULD BE LIMITED TO VISITS OR PROJECTS ALREADY UNDERWAY OF WHICH WASHINGTON IS AWARE. THEY SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE USED TO INITIATE OR REQUEST SERVICES. THIS POST HAS RECENTLY RECEIVED LETTERS EITHER FROM FIELD OFFICES REQUESTING SERVICES ON THE BEHALF OF THEIR CLIENTS, OR FROM US FIRMS REQUESTING SERVICES DIRECTLY FROM THE POST PURPORTEDLY ON THE ADVICE OF A FIELD OFFICE. RETURNING SUCH REQUESTS TO WASHINGTON, WHICH THE REGULATIONS ENCOURAGE US TO DO, CREATES EMBARRASSMENT FOR THE U.S.
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GOVERNMENT AND IRRITATES THE BUSINESSMAN.

3. IN SUM, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT SOME FLEXIBILITY IN THE PROCEDURES FOR COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN FOREIGN SERVICE

POSTS AND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FIELD OFFICES IS DESIRABLE
IN THE INTEREST OF SPEED AND EFFICIENCY. THESE COMMUNICATIONS
SHOULD BE CONFINED TO URGENT OPERATIONAL MATTERS, HOWEVER,
AND NOT USED TO PURPOSELY OR INADVERTENTLY CIRCUMVENT USDOC
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.

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